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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE** **1020 Rpt. 1867 PTO-13 JUL 2005**

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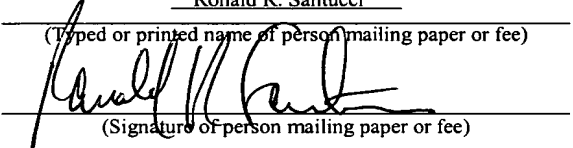
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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to the examination of the above referenced patent application,

Applicants respectfully request that the application be amended as follows: